

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18 with the following paragraph:

The fuming step consists in the reduction-smelting of the residue, whereby reductants such as natural gas, LPG, coal or cokes, and possibly fluxes such as limestone ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), dolomite ( $\text{MgCO}_3 \cdot \text{CaCO}_3$ ) ( $\text{MgCO}_3$ ,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) are added to produce a fast fuming slag with a high melting point. This high melting point corresponds to limited superheating of the slag. This greatly facilitates freeze-lining, i.e., the formation of a crust on the inner surface of the cooled vessel walls. Limited superheating results in the formation of a relatively stable and thick crust, ensuring good thermal insulation and efficiently protecting the vessel lining from corrosion. Heat losses towards the cooled walls are thus greatly reduced. Moreover, the relatively low silica content of the slag appears to enhance the fuming rate. A slag melting point of at least 1250 °C, and preferably of at least 1300 °C is recommended.